

86/62/60
JC525 U.S. PTO

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Washington D.C. 20231
Box Patent Applications

Case Docket No. FUJA 15.447

Filed by Express Mail
(Receipt No. EH36753565PS
on Sept. 29, 1998
pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10
by Glenn C. Lee

JC525 U.S. PTO
09/162849
09/29/98

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing is: a new application
 a c-i-p application of S.N. _____ filed _____

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For: INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND INFORMATION
PROCESSING APPARATUS

Enclosed are:

10 sheets of drawings. (Figs. 1-10)
 Specification, including claims and abstract (19 pages)
 Declaration
 An assignment of the Invention to FUJITSU LIMITED
 A certified copy of Japanese Application No. 10-128835
 An associate power of attorney
 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27
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RATE	FEES
	\$395
x 11 =	\$
x 41 =	\$
x 135 =	\$
TOTAL	\$

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RATE	FEES
	\$790
x 22 =	\$
x 82 =	\$
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TOTAL	\$
	790

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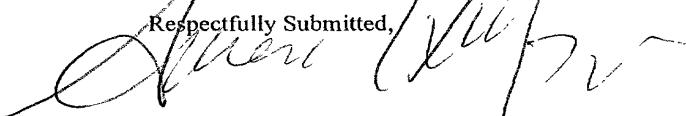
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INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND
INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an information processing method and an information processing apparatus, having an SDL (specification and description language) execution unit described in SDL, an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than SDL, and an OS (operating system).

The SDL is based on CEFMS (communicating extended finite-state machine) of ITU-T Recommendations and is used to describe the specifications of information processing equipment such as exchanges. There are many programs described in other programming languages such as C and C++. There is a necessity of properly integrating programs described in SDL with programs described in other languages.

2. Description of the Related Art

SDL execution units contained in an SDL block are executed as tasks of an OS (operating system). If the number of the SDL execution units is large, the overhead of the OS increases because the OS must create tasks for the SDL execution units. An increase in the overhead of the OS causes a problem in a system such as a telephone exchange system that must secure real-time processing.

Communication between the SDL execution units and an external environment description unit and communication among the SDL execution units are controlled by communication controllers of the OS. If the numbers of signals handled by the communication controllers increase, the overhead of the OS also increases.

The external environment description unit must

define signals such that the signals are easy to handle for the SDL execution units. The external environment description unit, therefore, is unable to form its own data group.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to integrate an external environment description unit with an SDL execution unit and assign a task of an OS to the integrated unit, to reduce the overhead of the OS.

10 In order to accomplish the object, a first aspect of the present invention provides an information processing method for use with an SDL execution unit described in SDL, an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than SDL, and an adapter.

15 The adapter has a pseudo internal signal generator and a queue manager. The method includes the steps of connecting the external environment description unit and the SDL execution unit to each other through the adapter so that signals containing messages, events, and

20 parameters may be exchanged between them through the adapter; assigning a task of an OS to the external environment description unit; and executing the task so that the pseudo internal signal generator may convert and transfer the signals between the external environment

25 description unit and the SDL execution unit.

 A second aspect of the present invention provides an information processing method for use with an SDL execution unit described in SDL, an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than SDL, and an adapter. The adapter has a pseudo internal signal generator and a queue manager. The method includes the steps of connecting the external environment description unit and the SDL execution unit to each other through the adapter so that signals containing messages, events, and parameters may be exchanged between them through the adapter; receiving information to be transferred to the SDL execution unit

from the external environment description unit, the
information being received as function parameters for the
pseudo internal signal generator; converting the
information by the pseudo internal signal generator into
5 signals to be supplied to the SDL execution unit;
transferring the converted signals to the queue manager;
monitoring an internal queue of the queue manager; and
activating, if the internal queue is holding the
converted signals, the SDL execution unit by function
10 call so that the activated SDL execution unit may fetch
the converted signals from the internal queue and carry
out processes accordingly.

A third aspect of the present invention provides an
information processing apparatus for processing
15 information under the control of a task assigned by an
operation system. The apparatus has an adapter for
connecting an SDL execution unit described in SDL and an
external environment description unit described in a
programming language other than SDL to each other so that
20 signals may be transferred between them through the
adapter under a task of the operation system assigned to
the external environment description unit. The adapter
has a pseudo internal signal generator and a queue
manager. The pseudo internal signal generator separates,
25 integrates, and converts signals to be transferred
between the SDL execution unit and the external
environment description unit. The queue manager has an
internal queue for holding the signals to be transferred
between the SDL execution unit and the external
30 environment description unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above object and features as well as other
features of the present invention will be more apparent
from the following description of the preferred
35 embodiments with reference to the drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows essential part of an embodiment of the
present invention;

Fig. 2 explains a signal separating function of the embodiment;

Fig. 3 explains a signal integrating function of the embodiment;

5 Fig. 4 explains an operation of the embodiment;

Fig. 5 explains another operation of the embodiment;

Fig. 6 shows a sequence of operations of the embodiment;

10 Fig. 7 explains a normal operation of the embodiment;

Fig. 8 explains a separating operation of the embodiment;

Fig. 9 explains an integrating operation of the embodiment; and

15 Fig. 10 shows a prior art.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

For better understanding of the present invention, an information processing method according to a prior art will first be described with reference to Fig. 10.

20 The prior art has an external environment description unit 71 (hereinafter referred to as the environment unit 71), an SDL block 72, an operation system (OS) 73, a signal generator 74, a signal receiver 75, SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n, and OS communication controllers 77-1 and 77-2.

25 The prior art is applicable to information processing equipment such as an exchange. In this case, the OS 73 serves as a central controller for controlling respective parts, and the environment unit 71 transmits and receives control information to and from subscribers and processes the control information. The environment unit 71 is described in a programming language such as C or C++.

30 The SDL block 72 contains the SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n each of which represents a service described in SDL (specification and description language). The services provided by the SDL execution units are, for

example, central control, speech channel switching, and accounting functions. The SDL includes SDL/GR (SDL graphical representation) and SDL/PR (SDL phrase representation). The environment unit 71 serves as an 5 external environment for the SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n and is described in a programming language other than SDL.

Basic operations carried out between the environment unit 71 and the SDL block 72 (SDL execution units 76-1 to 10 76-n) are activation and information exchange both based on signals. Accordingly, the OS 73 assigns tasks A to X to the environment unit 71 and SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n, respectively. Signal transfer between, for example, the environment unit 71 and the SDL execution 15 units 76-1 and 76-2 is carried out through a queue in the communication controller 77-1 under the control of the OS 73. Similarly, signal transfer between the SDL execution units, for example, 76-1 and 76-2 is carried out through a queue in the communication controller 77-2 under the 20 control of the OS 73.

In this way, the SDL block 72 is described in SDL for providing various services, and the environment unit 71 has existing parameters, etc., and serves as an external environment for the SDL block 72. Since the 25 environment unit 71 is described in a programming language other than SDL, it is impossible to directly transfer signals between the SDL block 72 and the environment unit 71.

Accordingly, the communication controllers 77-1 and 30 77-2 controlled by the OS 73 must mediate between the SDL block 72 and the environment unit 71. At this time, the OS 73 must assign tasks A to X to the environment unit 71 and SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n, respectively.

If the number of the SDL execution units is large, 35 the number of the tasks assigned to them increases accordingly, to increase the overhead of the OS 73. This causes a problem in a system such as a telephone exchange

system that must secure real-time processing.

Signal transfer between the environment unit 71 and the SDL execution units 76-1 to 76-n, or between the SDL execution units is carried out through the communication controllers 77-1 and 77-2 controlled by the OS 73. If the number of signals to be transferred increases, the overhead of the OS 73 increases as in the case of assigning tasks.

In addition, the environment unit 71 must define signals such that the signals may easily be handled by the SDL execution units, and therefore, it is not easy for the environment unit 71 to form its own data group.

Next, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be explained.

Figure 1 shows essential part of an embodiment of the present invention. The embodiment has an external environment description unit 1 (hereinafter referred to as the environment unit 1), an SDL execution unit 2, an operation system (OS) 3, and an adapter 4. The adapter 4 includes a pseudo internal signal generator 5 and a queue manager 6.

The environment unit 1 is described in a programming language, such as C or C++, other than SDL. The environment unit 1 is executed as an execution task assigned by the OS 3. This execution task covers the SDL execution unit 2 as well. The environment unit 1 and SDL execution unit 2 are combined together by, for example, a function call. To realize this, the adapter 4 has the pseudo internal signal generator 5 and queue manager 6. Although the SDL execution unit 2 shown in Fig. 1 is single, actual practice involves a plurality of SDL execution units that are connected to internal queues of the queue manager 6.

The pseudo internal signal generator 5 converts a signal (a) that may contain messages, events, parameters, etc., received from the environment unit 1 into a signal (a') suitable for SDL. The signal (a') is set in an

internal queue of the queue manager 6. The queue manager 6 monitors whether or not a signal is present in the internal queue, and if a signal is present, activates the 5 SDL execution unit 2 by a function call. The activated SDL execution unit 2 fetches the signal (a') from the internal queue of the queue manager 6. A signal (b) from the 10 SDL execution unit 2 is transferred to the pseudo internal signal generator 5 through the queue manager 6 and is converted into a signal (b') for the environment unit 1. The signal (b') is transferred to the environment unit 1.

In this way, information to be transferred to the 15 SDL execution unit 2 from the environment unit 1 is transmitted as a function parameter for the pseudo internal signal generator 5. Then, the information is converted into a signal (a'), which is transferred to the queue manager 6. The queue manager 6 monitors the internal queue, and if the signal (a') is present in the 20 internal queue, activates the SDL execution unit 2 by a function call.

The activated SDL execution unit 2 fetches the signal (a') from the internal queue and carries out a process accordingly. When the process is settled, the queue manager 6 takes control. The queue manager 6 monitors the internal queue, and if there is no signal in the 25 queue, control is handed over to the environment unit 1 that is being executed as a task of the OS 3.

When the SDL execution unit 2 has a signal (b) to be sent to the environment unit 1, the queue manager 6 30 fetches the signal (b), and the pseudo internal signal generator 5 converts the signal (b) into a signal (b'), which is transferred as a function return value or an output pointer to the environment unit 1 that is operating under a task of the OS 3.

In this way, the present invention operates the 35 environment unit 1 as a task of the OS 3 and combines the SDL execution unit 2 with the environment unit 1 through

the adapter 4. Even if there are many SDL execution units 2, there is no need of assigning OS tasks to the SDL execution units, respectively. Even if there are many signals to be transferred between the environment unit 1 and the SDL execution units or between the SDL execution units, communication controllers of the OS 3 are irrelevant to the signal transfer. As a result, there is no increase in the overhead of the OS 3 due to task assignment and signal transfer.

Figure 2 shows a signal separation function according to the embodiment of the present invention. The environment unit 1 has a pointer 11 that indicates, for example, an information unit 12. The information unit 12 is going to be transferred to the SDL execution unit 2 and contains several signal elements. The signal elements may include an initial addressing message IAM, an addressing completion message ACM, a release message REL, related information, etc. According to input parameters, the pseudo internal signal generator 5 separates the information unit 12 into an information unit 15-1 containing information "a" and an information unit 15-2 containing information "b." The information units 15-1 and 15-2 transfer the information pieces "a" and "b" to the internal queue 16 of the queue manager 6.

ISUP (ISDN User Part) of ITU-T Recommendations presently specifies forty-five standardized messages. For example, an initial addressing message IAM is standardized as code 01(h) ((h) representing hexadecimal notation), addressing completion message ACM as code 05(h), release message REL as code 0c(h), answer message ANM as code 09(h), connection message CON as code 07(h), and release completion message RLC as code 10(h).

In response to the information pieces "a" and "b" in the internal queue 16, the queue manager 6 activates the SDL execution unit 2, which fetches the information pieces "a" and "b" from the internal queue 16. Then, the SDL execution unit 2 becomes ready to receive the

messages IAM and ACM. In this case, there is no need for the OS 3 to create tasks for each transfer of signals, and therefore, there is no increase in the overhead of the OS 3.

5 Figure 3 shows a signal integrating function according of the embodiment of the present invention. The same reference numerals as those of Fig. 2 represent like parts. Figure 3 additionally shows pointers 11-1 and 11-2, a main information unit 12-1, additional 10 information units 12-2 and 12-3, information units 15-1 and 15-2, internal queues 16-1 and 16-2, and cases 2a and 2b contained in the SDL execution unit 2.

15 The main information unit 12-1 in the environment unit 1 includes a message such as the initial addressing message IAM, addressing completion message ACM, or release message REL, and information "a" corresponding to the message. The additional information units 12-2 and 12-3 contain additional information "b" and "c" related to the information "a" serving as a main signal. The 20 additional information unit 12-2 is linked to the main information unit 12-1, and the additional information unit 12-3 is indicated with the pointer 11-1.

25 The pointer 11-2 indicates the main information unit 12-1, and the information "a" is transferred as a main signal to the information unit 15-1 in the pseudo internal signal generator 5. The additional information unit 12-2 linked to the main information unit 12-1 transfers the additional information "b" to the information unit 15-2 in the pseudo internal signal 30 generator 5. The information "a" serving as the main signal contains link information for the additional information "b." These operations relate to the case 2a of the SDL execution unit 2.

35 According to input parameters, the pseudo internal signal generator 5 becomes ready to transfer the information "a" as a main signal through the internal queue 16-1 to the SDL execution unit 2 activated by the

queue manager 6. The SDL execution unit 2 advances process steps from, for example, a reception of the initial addressing message IAM, refers to the link information added to the main signal to see the 5 additional information "b" of the additional information unit 15-1, and continues to process steps.

The case 2b of the SDL execution unit 2 will be explained. The pointer 11-2 indicates the main 10 information unit 12-1, and the pointer 11-1 indicates the additional information unit 12-3. The information "a" of the main information unit 12-1 is transferred to the information unit 15-1, and the additional information "c" of the additional information unit 12-3 corresponding to the information "a" is transferred to the information 15 unit 15-2. The pseudo internal signal generator 5 transfers the information "a" as a main signal through the internal queue 16-2 to the SDL execution unit 2 activated by the queue manager 6. The additional information "c" is also transferred to the SDL execution 20 unit 2 through the internal queue 16-2. The case 2b of the SDL execution unit 2, therefore, advances process steps from a reception of the initial addressing message IAM to the next process step and to a reception of additional information ADD-INF.

25 Figure 4 shows an operation of the embodiment of the present invention. This figure shows the environment unit 1, SDL execution unit 2, OS 3, and adapter 4. The adapter 4 has a signal reception unit 21, an activation unit 22, a signal generator 23, a signal output unit 24, 30 and a queue 25. The signal generator 23 and signal output unit 24 are included in the signal reception unit 21.

35 The signal generator 23 and signal output unit 24 provide the function of the pseudo internal signal generator 5 of Fig. 1. The activation unit 22 provides the function of the queue manager 6 of Fig. 1. The environment unit 1 is described in C or C++ language, and

the SDL execution unit 2 is described in SDL.

The environment unit 1 is executed as a task of the OS 3. Control is handed over to the signal reception unit 21 from the environment unit 1 by function call. At 5 this time, the execution task hands over data (a) to the SDL execution unit 2 as an argument of a function $f(a)$. The signal generator 23 converts the received data (a) into a signal (a') that can be received by the SDL execution unit 2. The signal output unit 24 links the 10 converted signal (a') to the queue 25.

The activation unit 22 monitors the queue 25, and if the queue 25 is holding a signal, activates the SDL execution unit 2. The SDL execution unit 2 fetches the signal (a') from the queue 25, and the SDL execution unit 15 2 advances process steps accordingly. When the SDL execution unit 2 reaches a step of waiting for the next signal, control is returned to the activation unit 22. These operations are repeated to process information 20 without assigning tasks of the OS 3 to the SDL execution unit 2.

Figure 5 shows another operation of the embodiment of the present invention. This figure shows only the SDL execution unit 2 and adapter 4 of Fig. 4. As explained above, the signal generator 23 converts a signal (a) into 25 a signal (a') to be transferred to the SDL execution unit 2. The signal (a') is transferred from the signal output unit 24 to the queue 25. The activation unit 22 monitors the queue 25 and activates the SDL execution unit 2. The activated SDL execution unit 2 fetches the signal (a') 30 from the queue 25. If the SDL execution unit 2 generates a signal (b), this signal is transferred to the queue 25.

Figure 6 shows a sequence of processes of the embodiment of the present invention. This example shows a credit-card call service. In the explanation, an 35 exchange that handles a calling party is a "front station," and an exchange that handles a called party is a "rear station." The function that realizes the credit-

card call service may be provided for the front station, the rear station, or an intermediate station between the front and rear stations. This function is described in SDL and the other functions in C++.

5 The functions described in C++ are in the environment unit 1 of Figs. 1 to 4, and the function described in SDL is in the SDL execution unit 2 of Figs. 1 to 5. Between the environment unit 1 and the SDL execution unit 2, there is arranged the adapter 4 of 10 Figs. 1 to 5 consisting of the pseudo internal signal generator 5 and queue manager 6. Thick arrows of Fig. 6 indicate signals transferred from the adapter 4 to the SDL execution unit 2.

15 When the calling party lifts the phone, the front station detects the same and returns a dial tone. The calling party recognizes the dial tone and dials a service access code to make a credit-card call service request. The front station recognizes the code, forms an initial addressing message IAM corresponding to the code, 20 and sends the message IAM. The message IAM contains information such as a calling party number necessary for setting a call.

25 The environment unit 1 receives the message IAM, separates or integrates a main signal and additional information as explained with reference to Figs. 2 and 3, and transfers the information to the pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers it to the SDL execution unit 2.

30 The pseudo internal signal generator 5 generates in, for example, the signal generator 23 (Fig. 4) an initial addressing message IAM for the SDL execution unit 2 according to the received message IAM and puts the generated message in the queue 25. The activation unit 22 monitors the queue 25 and activates the SDL execution 35 unit 2. The activated SDL execution unit 2 fetches the message IAM from the queue 25.

In response to the message IAM, the SDL execution

unit 2 returns an addressing completion message ACM and an answer message ANM to the environment unit 1. The environment unit 1 transfers the messages ACM and ANM to the front station. The process steps in the credit-card 5 call service advance, and the SDL execution unit 2 sends an announcement request REQ1 to the environment unit 1.

In response to the request REQ1, the environment unit 1 sends an announcement of, for example, "Please 10 input the card number" to the calling party through the front station.

In response to the announcement, the calling party 15 inputs the number of the credit card. The front station transfers the card number to the pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers the card number to the SDL execution unit 2 through the queue manager 6. In response to the card number, the SDL execution unit 2 returns an announcement request REQ2 to the environment unit 1.

In response to the request REQ2, the environment 20 unit 1 sends an announcement of, for example, "Please input the personal number" to the calling party through the front station.

In response to the announcement, the calling party 25 inputs a personal number (subscriber ID). The front station transfers the personal number to the pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers it to the SDL execution unit 2 through the queue manager 6. In response to the personal number, the SDL execution unit 2 returns an announcement request REQ3 to the environment 30 unit 1.

In response to the request REQ3, the environment unit 1 sends an announcement of, for example, "Please input a called subscriber number" to the calling party through the front station.

35 In response to the announcement, the calling party inputs the telephone number of the called subscriber. The front station transfers the telephone number to the

pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers it to the SDL execution unit 2 through the queue manager 6.

According to the telephone number, the SDL execution unit 2 sends an initial addressing message IAM to the rear station. In response to the message IAM, the rear station calls the called subscriber and returns an addressing completion message ACM to the pseudo internal signal generator 5. In response to the message ACM, the pseudo internal signal generator 5 transfers an addressing completion message ACM to the SDL execution unit 2. If the called subscriber answers, the rear station sends an answer message ANM to the pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers it to the SDL execution unit 2. As a result, a speech channel is established by the called subscriber, and the channel is set in a busy state.

Once the speech is completed, the calling party hangs up the phone. The front station transfers a release message REL for releasing the channel to the pseudo internal signal generator 5, which transfers it to the SDL execution unit 2. In response to this, the SDL execution unit 2 sends a release completion message RLC indicating that the channel has been completely released, to the environment unit 1, and at the same time, a release message REL to the rear station. In response to the message REL, the rear station sends a release completion message RLC to the SDL execution unit 2. When this message RLC is received by the SDL execution unit 2, the series of processes ends.

In this way, signals are transferred between the environment unit 1 and the SDL execution unit 2 through the adapter 4. Accordingly, the OS 3 only assigns a task to the environment unit 1. This greatly reduces the overhead of the OS 3.

Figure 7 shows the pseudo internal signal generator 5, an IAM memory 35, the queue manager 6, and the SDL execution unit 2, to explain a normal operation of the

embodiment of the present invention. The pseudo internal signal generator 5 receives, for example, an initial addressing message IAM from the environment unit 1 and searches the IAM memory 35 according to messages msg_1, 5 msg_2, and the like and parameters para_1, para_2, and the like related to the message IAM.

The IAM memory 35 holds a calling party number clig_pty_num, calling party category clig_pty_cat, etc. In the case of the parameter para_1 of the message msg_1, 10 the calling party number clig_pty_num is set and transferred to the queue manager 6. The SDL execution unit 2 fetches the information from the queue manager 6 and carries out processes according to the information.

Figure 8 explains a separation operation of the 15 embodiment of the present invention. The same reference marks as those of Fig. 7 represent like parts. Figure 8 additionally shows an ACM memory 36 and an ANM memory 37 to achieve the signal separation function of Fig. 2. If the pseudo internal signal generator 5 receives from the 20 environment unit 1 three messages msg_1 == IAM, msg_2 == ACM, and msg_3 == ANM, it sequentially searches the IAM memory 35, ACM memory 36, and ANM memory 37 according to a memory search parameter mem_hunt.

According to parameters para_1, para_2, and para_3, 25 the pseudo internal signal generator 5 sets information and transfers the information to the queue manager 6. For example, if msg_2 == ACM and para_3 == ACM.bwd_cal_ind, the pseudo internal signal generator 5 sets data bwd_cal_ind (backward call indication) by 30 searching the ACM memory 36 and transfers the data to the queue manager 6. Then, the SDL execution unit 2 sequentially fetches data from the queue manager 6 and carries out processes accordingly.

Figure 9 shows an integration operation of the 35 embodiment of the present invention and corresponds to the signal integration function of Fig. 3. If end_of_msg == 0, the pseudo internal signal generator 5 waits for

the next initial addressing message IAM, and if
end_of_msg == 1, the pseudo internal signal generator 5
sends data to the queue. Namely, the calling party
number clig_pty_num and calling party category
5 clig_pty_cat are integrated, set, and transferred to the
queue manager 6.

The normal operation of Fig. 7 involving a single
message, the separation operation of Fig. 8 for
separating a plurality of messages from one another, and
10 the integration operation of Fig. 9 of integrating a
plurality of messages into one may be combined in various
ways to carry out the telephone service of Fig. 6 with
the use of the pseudo internal signal generator 5 and
queue manager 6.

15 As explained above, the present invention combines
the execution unit 2 described in SDL with the external
environment unit 1 described in a programming language
such as C and C++ other than SDL through the adapter
consisting of the pseudo internal signal generator 5 and
20 queue manager 6. Then, the present invention transfers
signals including messages, events, and parameters
between the environment unit 1 and the SDL execution unit
2 through the adapter without using communication
controllers of the OS 3.

25 As a result, the OS 3 is not required to assign
tasks to the SDL execution unit 2. This reduces the
overhead of the OS 3. Since no communication controller
of the OS is needed, no increase will be made in the
overhead of the OS even if the number of signals
30 transferred between the environment unit 1 and the SDL
execution unit 2 increases. The environment unit 1 and
SDL execution unit 2 may be prepared independently of
each other without considering each other.

What is claimed is:

1. An information processing method for use with an SDL execution unit described in a specification and description language (SDL), an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than the SDL, and an adapter having a pseudo internal signal generator and a queue manager, the method comprising the steps of:

10 connecting the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit to each other through the adapter so that signals containing at least one of messages, events, and parameters may be exchanged between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit through the adapter;

15 assigning a task of an operation system to the external environment description unit; and

executing the task so that the pseudo internal signal generator may convert and transfer the signals between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of executing the task includes the steps of:

25 receiving information to be transferred to the SDL execution unit from the external environment description unit, the information being received as function parameters for the pseudo internal signal generator;

30 converting the information by the pseudo internal signal generator into signals to be transferred to the SDL execution unit;

transferring the converted signals to the queue manager;

monitoring an internal queue of the queue manager; and

35 activating, if the internal queue is holding the converted signals, the SDL execution unit by a function call so that the activated SDL execution unit

may fetch the converted signals from the internal queue and carry out processes accordingly.

3. An information processing apparatus for processing information under the control of a task assigned by an operation system, comprising:

5 an adapter for connecting an SDL execution unit described in a specification and description language (SDL) and an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than the 10 SDL to each other so that signals may be transferred between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit through the adapter under a task assigned by the operation system to the external environment description unit, the adapter having:

15 a pseudo internal signal generator for separating, integrating, and converting signals to be transferred between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit; and

20 a queue manager having an internal queue for holding the signals to be transferred between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit.

INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND
INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information processing apparatus has an SDL
10 execution unit described in a specification and
description language (SDL), an external environment
description unit described in a programming language
other than the SDL, and an adapter having a pseudo
internal signal generator and a queue manager. A task of
15 an operation system is assigned to the external
environment description unit, which is combined with the
SDL execution unit through the adapter. The pseudo
internal signal generator converts signals including
messages, events, and parameters to be transferred
20 between the SDL execution unit and the external
environment description unit. The converted signals are
transferred between the SDL execution unit and the
external environment description unit through the queue
manager. Also provided is an information processing
25 method to materialize the information processing
apparatus. These method and apparatus reduce the
overhead of the operation system.

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Yumi SUZUKI et al.**

Filed: : **Concurrently herewith**

For : **INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND INFORMATION
PROCESSING APPARATUS**

Serial No.: **Concurrently herewith**

September 29, 1998

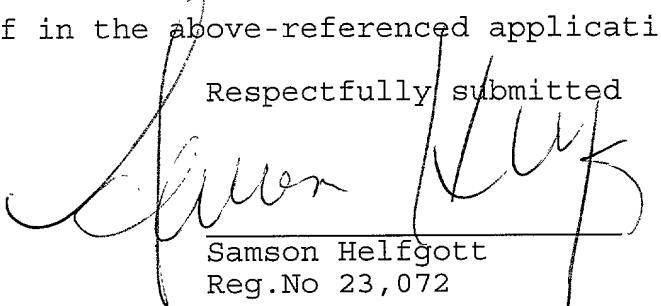
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SUB-POWER OF ATTORNEY

S I R:

I, Samson Helfgott Reg. No. 23,072 attorney of record herein, do hereby grant a sub-power of attorney to Russell Gross, Reg. No. 40,007 and Linda S. Chan, Reg. No. 42,400 to act and sign in my behalf in the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted


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Reg. No 23,072

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DOCKET NO.: FUJA15.447

LHH:power

Filed Via Express Mail
Rec. No.: EM266753869US
On Sept. 29, 1998
By S. Genzler

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check may be charged on Deposit Acct. No. 08-1634.

Fig.1

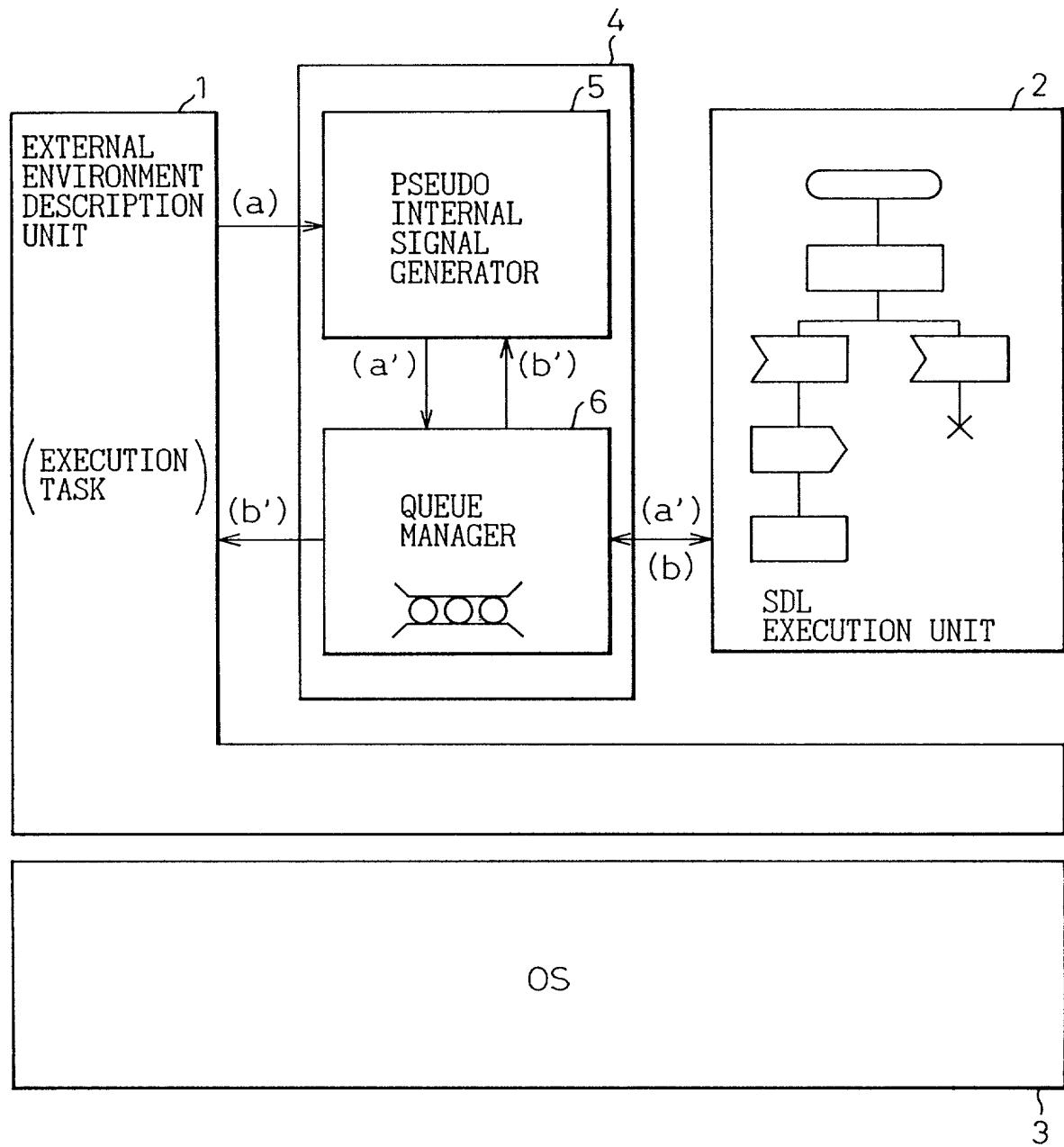


Fig.2

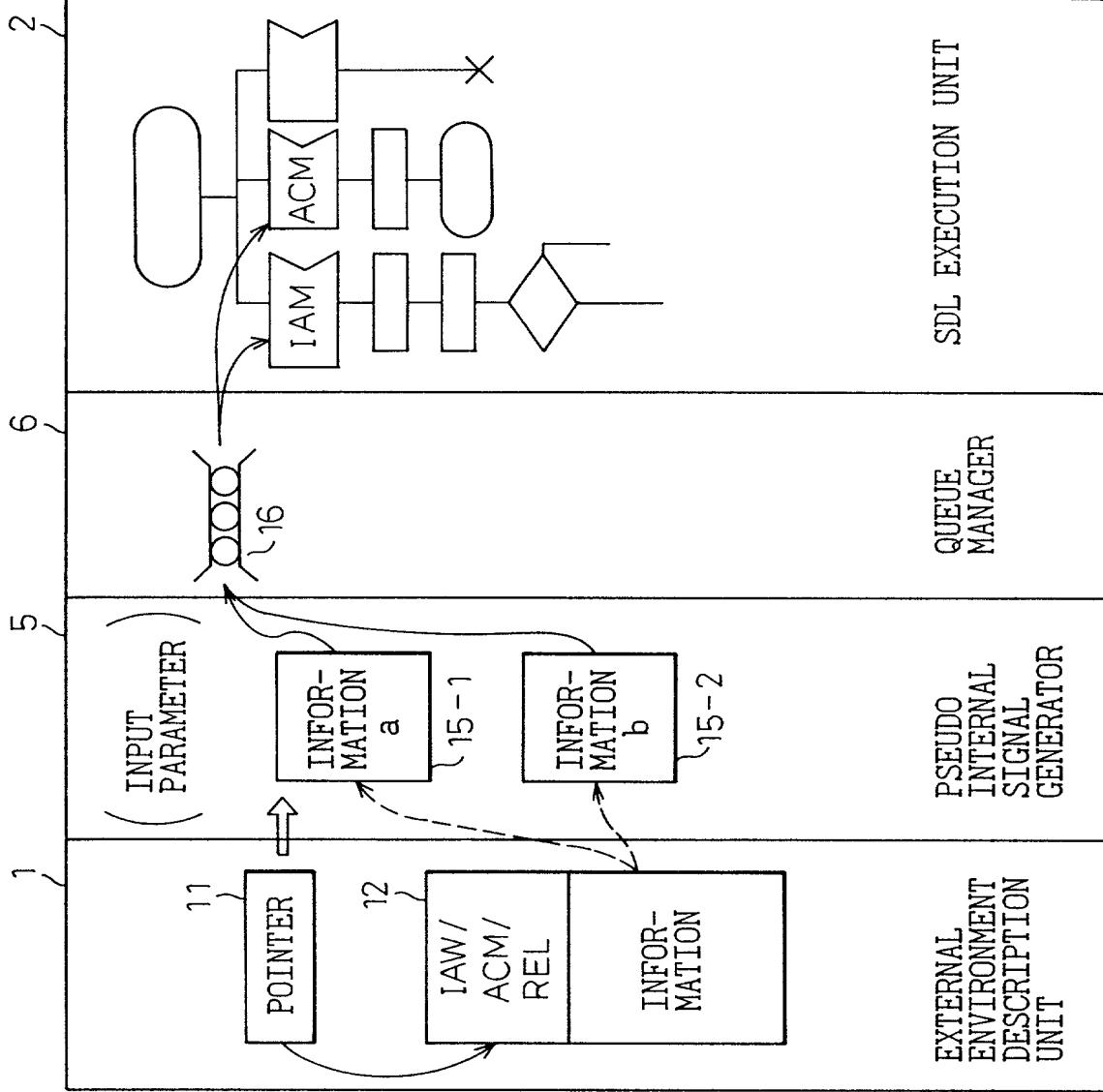


Fig.3

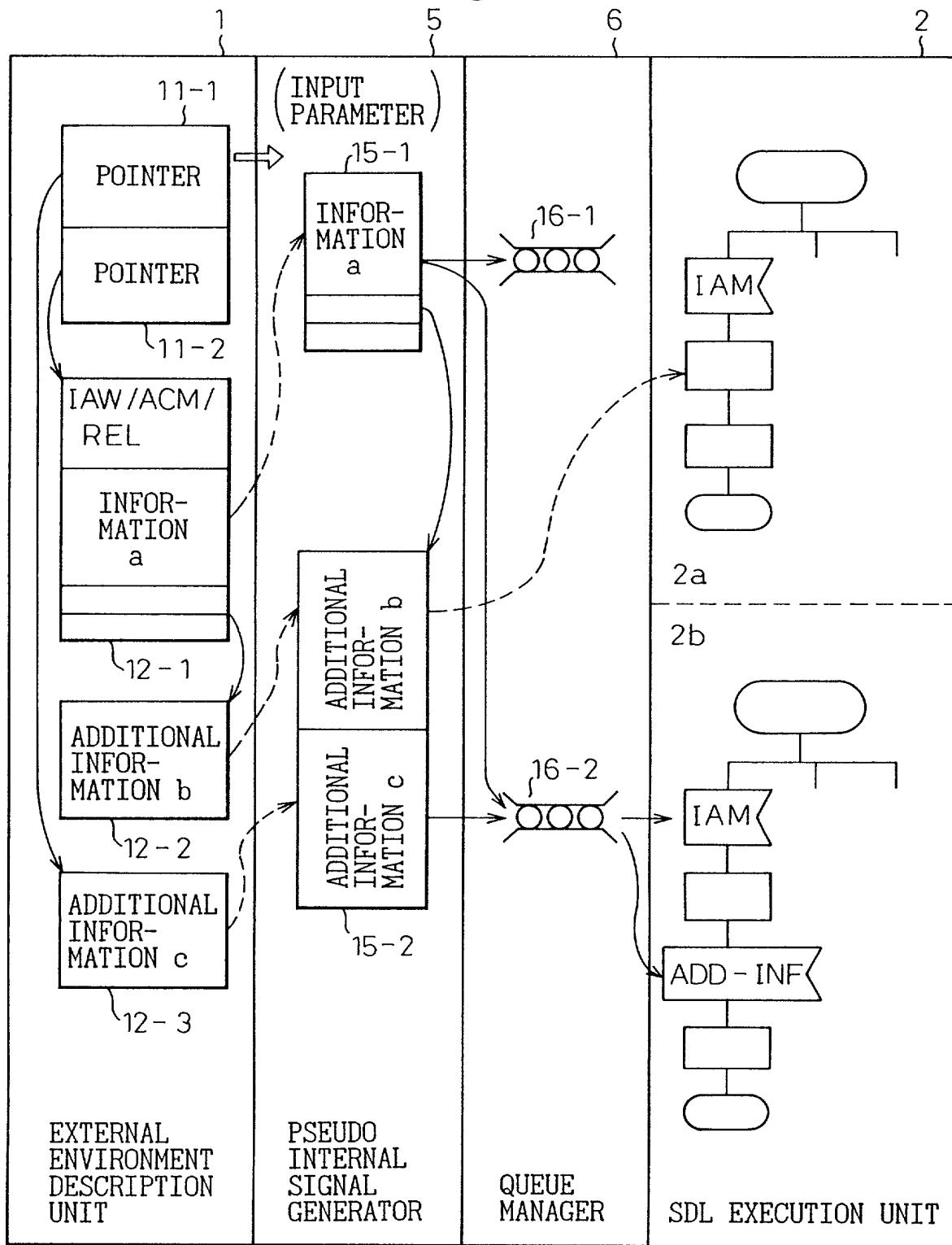


Fig.4

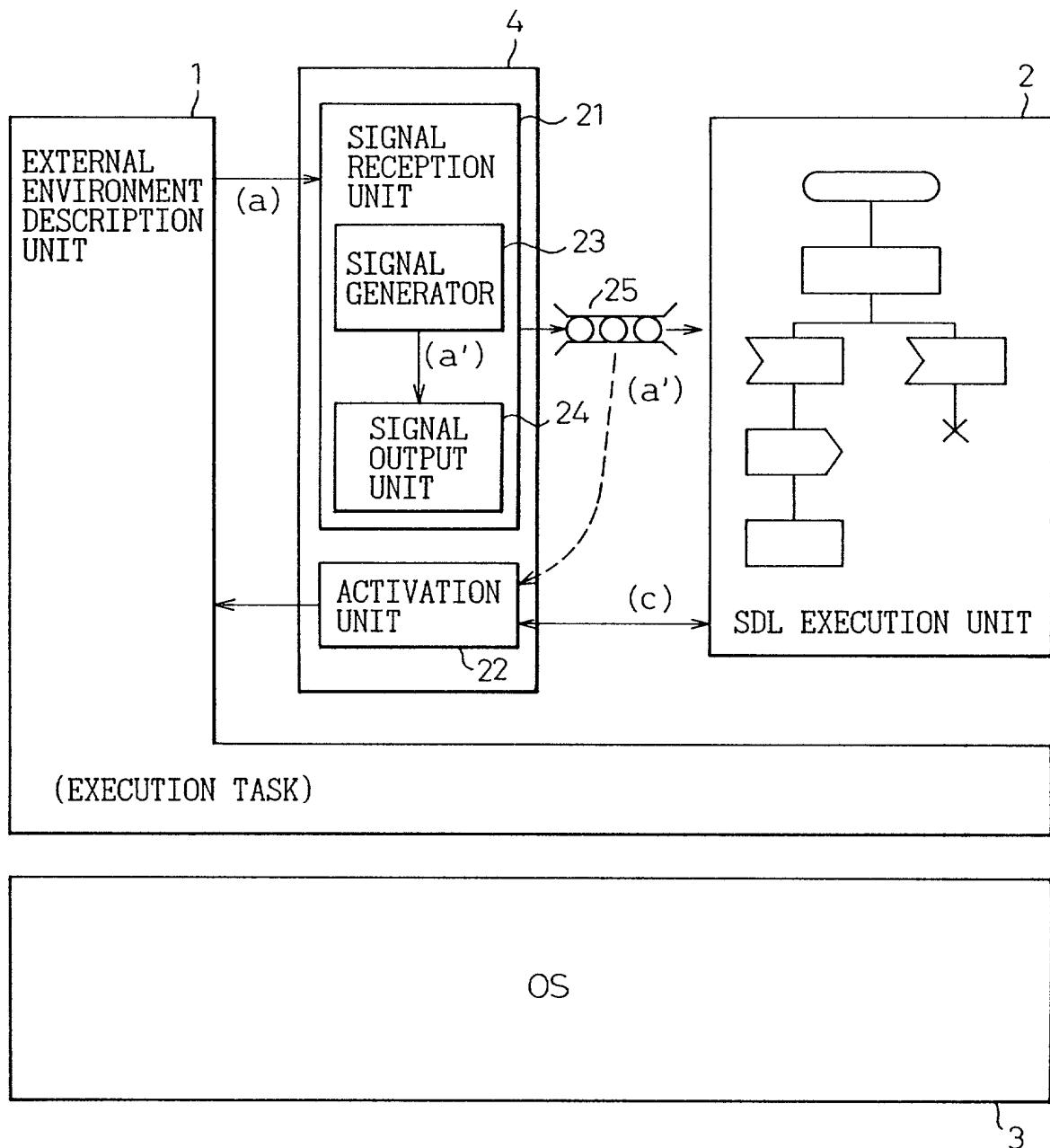


Fig.5

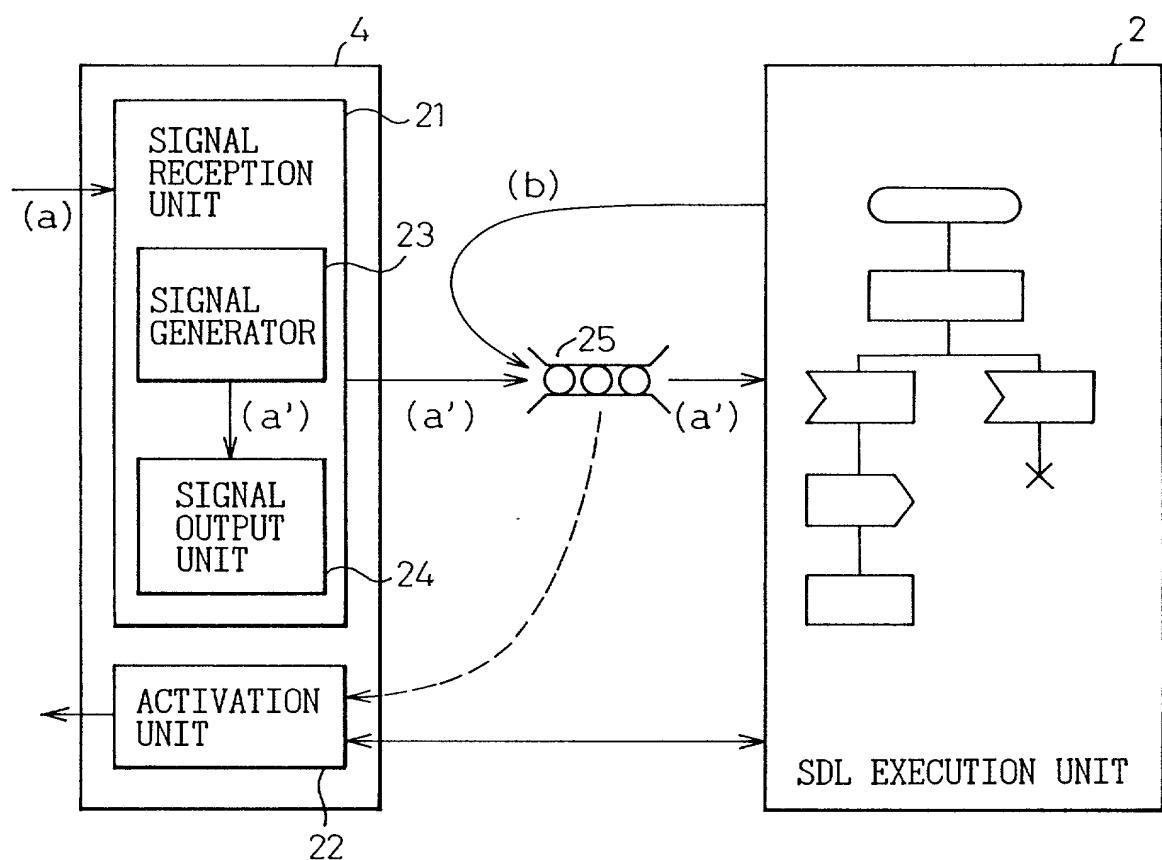
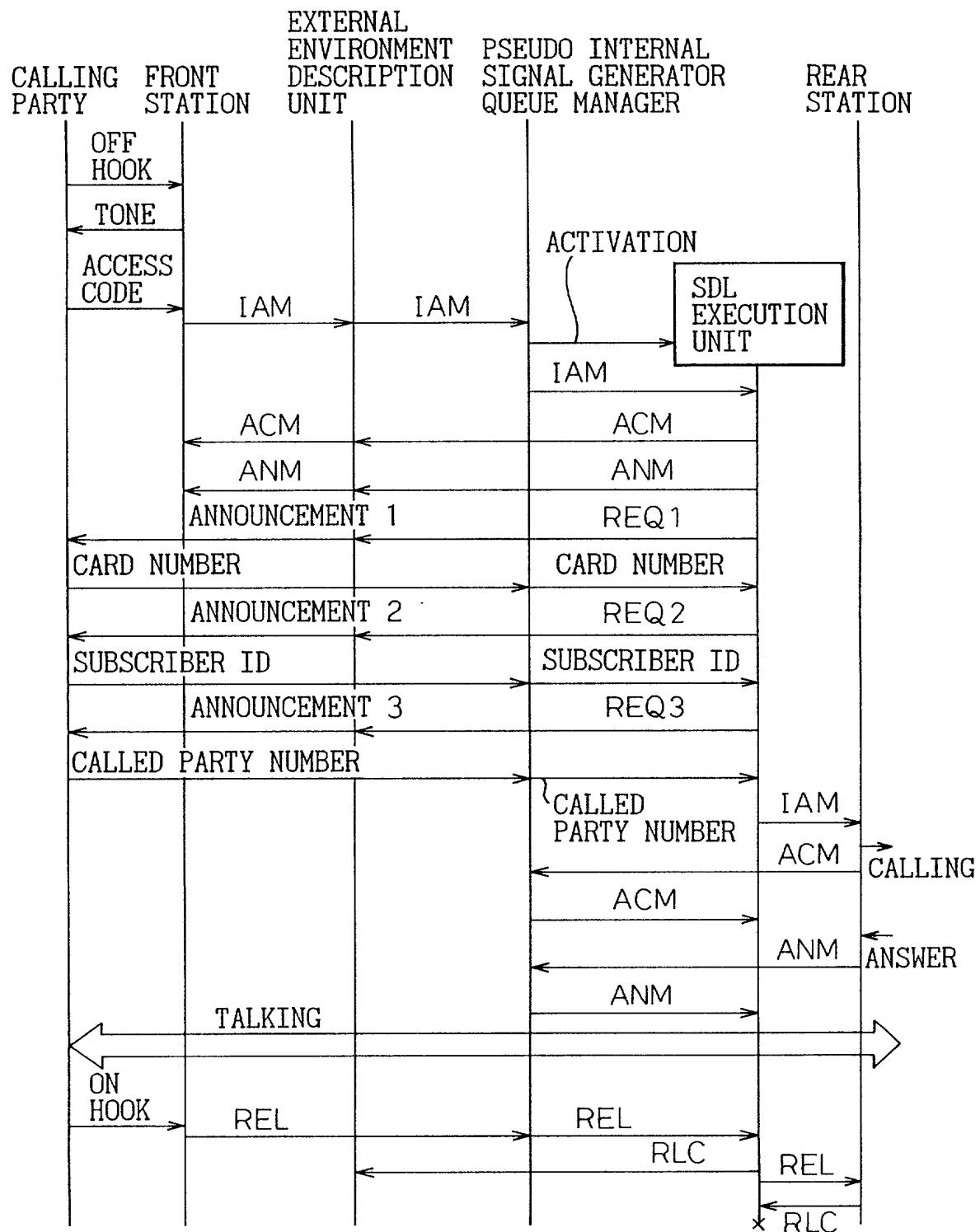


Fig.6



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Fig.7

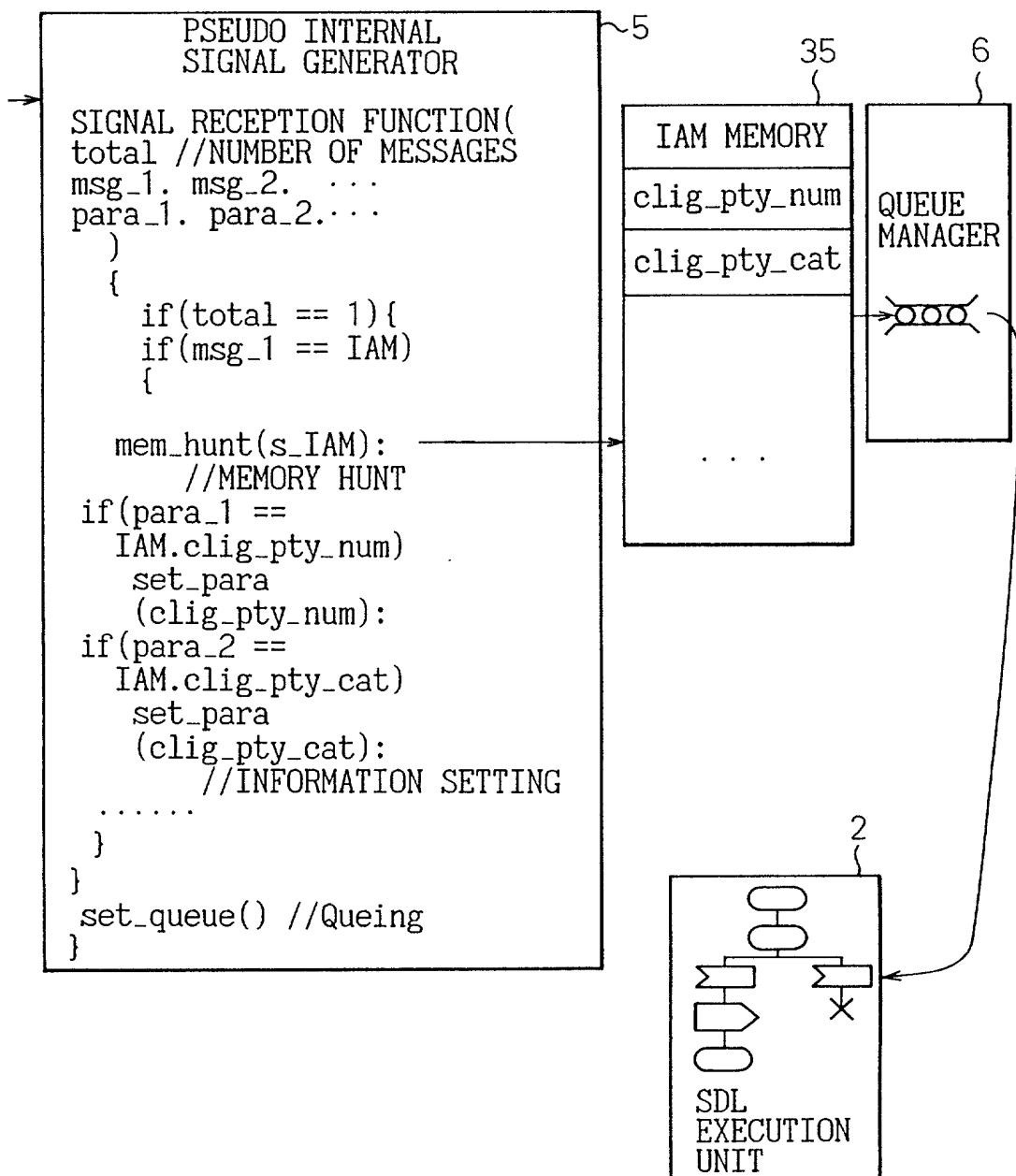


Fig.8

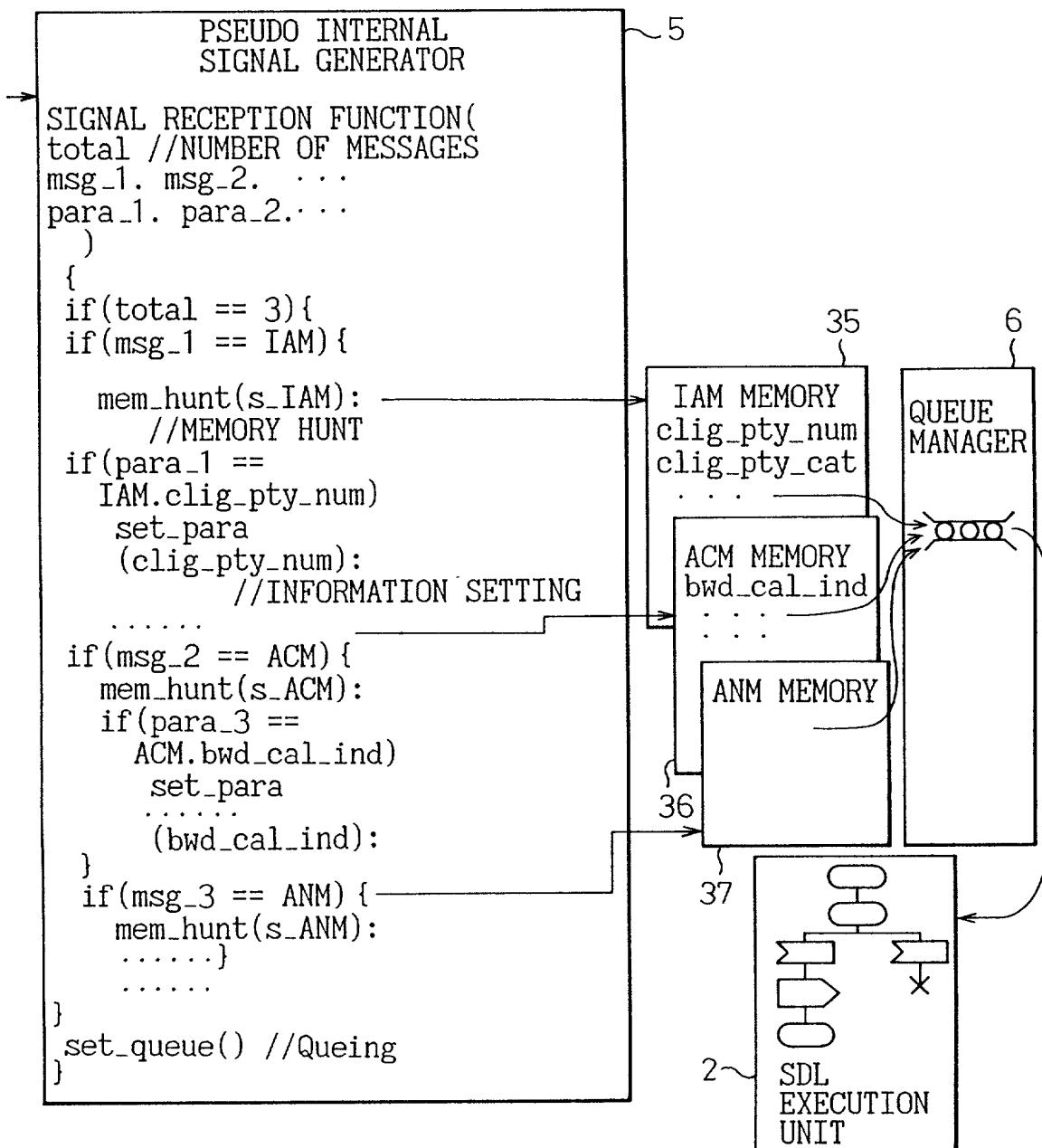
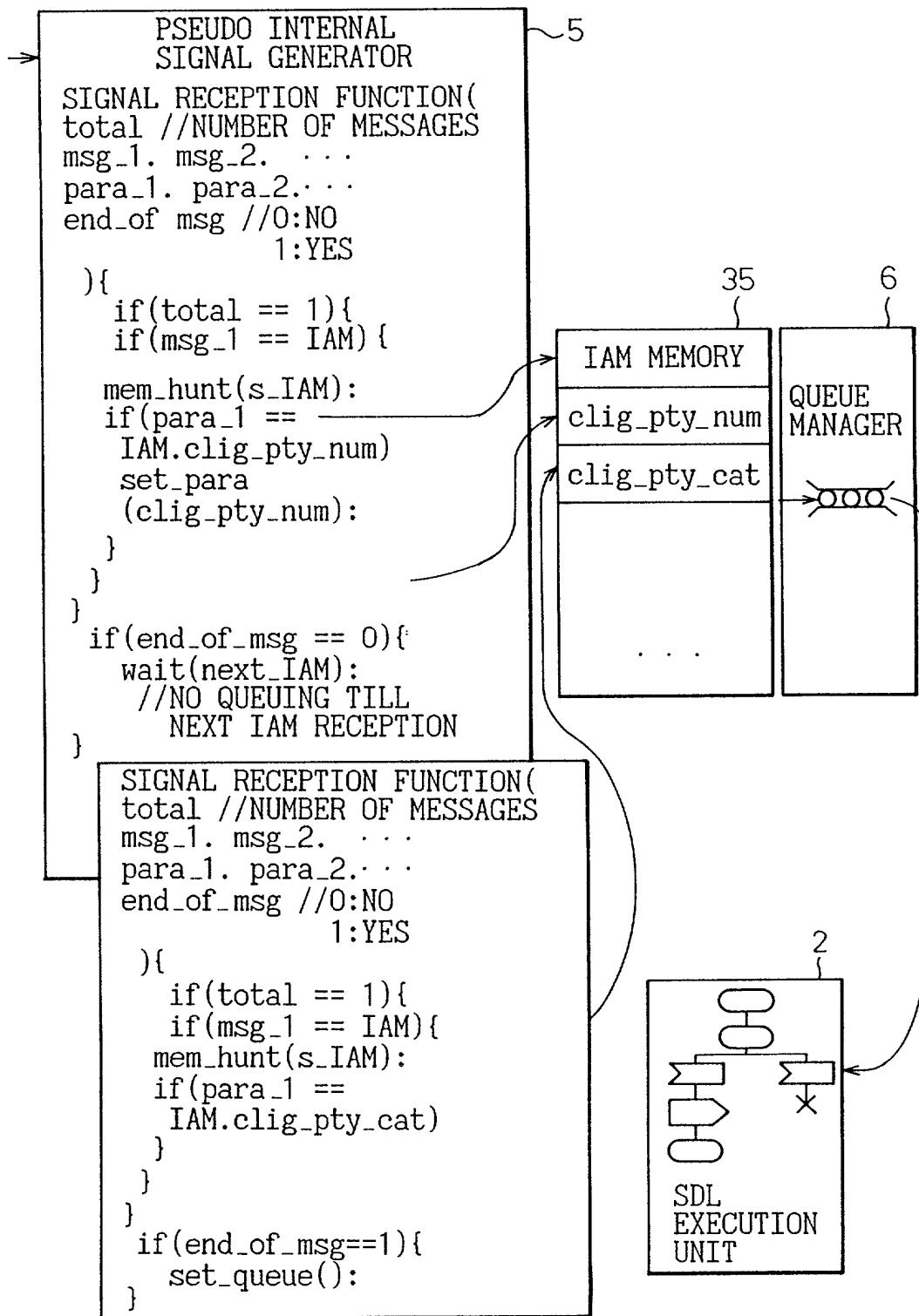


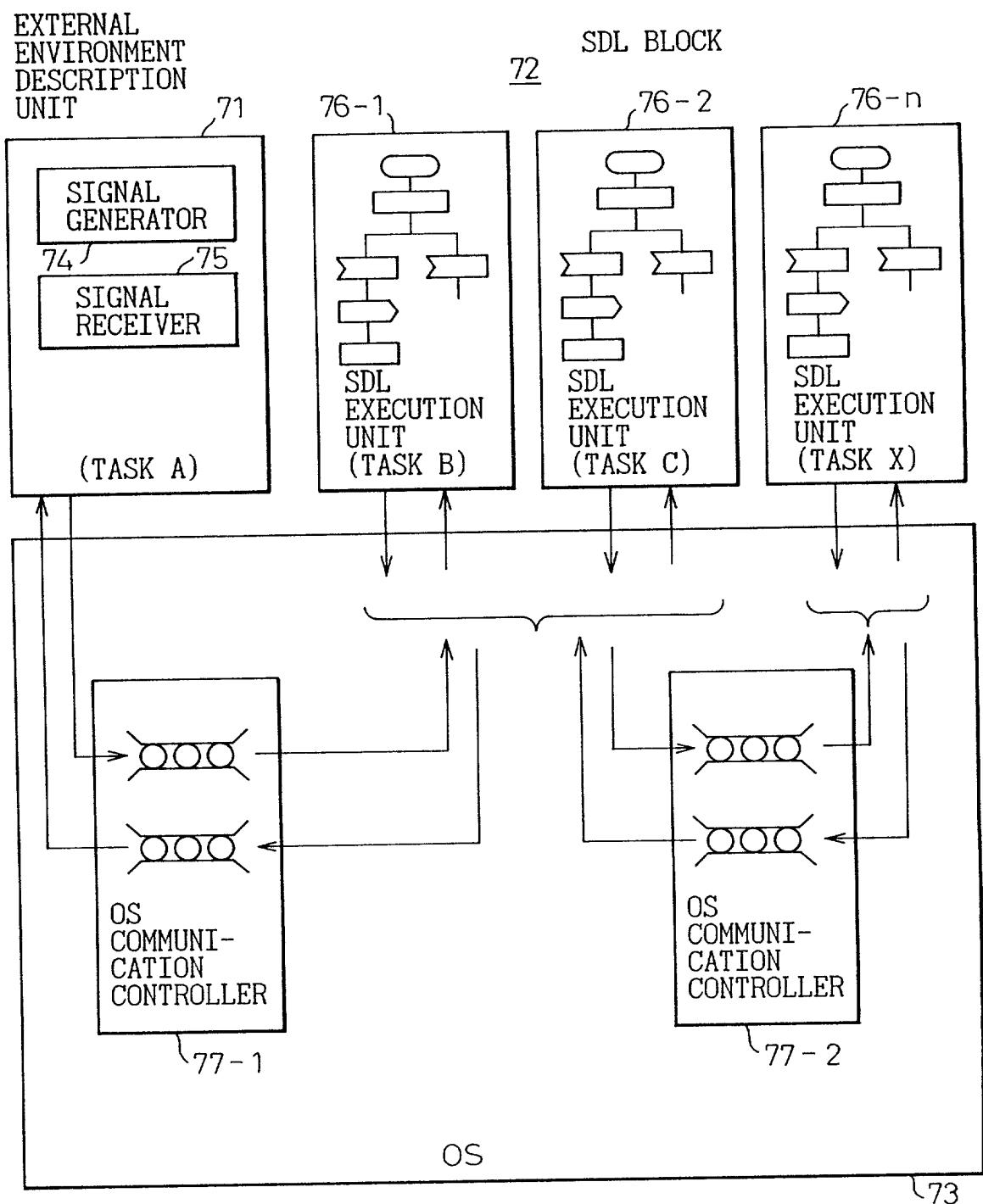
Fig.9



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Fig.10

PRIOR ART



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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application**特許出願宣言書及び委任状****Japanese Language Declaration****日本語宣言書**

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私郵便、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND**INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS**

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

一月一日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約
国際出願番号を _____ とし、
(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

was filed on _____
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
_____ and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、
内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of
the above identified specification, including the claims, as
amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されると
おり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務が
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I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to
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私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基き下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一ヵ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基く国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願		Japan
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	

私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基いて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基いて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条(c)に基く権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願が提出日以降で本出願の日本国内または特許協力条約国提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

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I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

12/May/1998	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)

優先権主張なし

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続を米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。（弁護士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと）

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

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（第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

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国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第五共同発明者	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any		
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住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第六共同発明者	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any		
第六共同発明者	日付	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence		
国籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		

(第七以降の共同発明者についても同様に
記載し、署名をすること)

(Supply similar information and signature for
seventh and subsequent joint inventors.)